



EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
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No. Pol-1/18/2010

April 27, 2010

Mr. Kevin Willcutts,
Deputy Director,
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor &
Human trafficking,
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
U.S. Department of Labor,
Washington, DC 20210

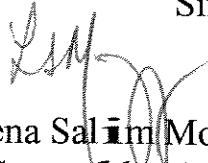
Dear Mr. Willcutts,

Please refer to your letter, dated March 4, 2010, addressed to Ambassador Haqqani, requesting for information on "Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Forced or Indentured Child Labor in the Production of Goods in Foreign Countries and Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor."

2. The issues of Child Labor and Bonded Labor in Pakistan is being tackled under the Constitutional obligations and the International commitments made in the form of ratification of ILO Conventions 138, 182, 29, 105 and UN Convention on the Rights of Child. The Government of Pakistan, together with the Provincial Governments and other partners, is making efforts for elimination of child labor for more than a decade. In this respect, a copy each of the following Briefs is attached for information:

- (i) Steps Taken to Combat Child Labor;
- (ii) Measures to Eliminate Child Labor; and
- (iii) Measures to Combat Bonded Labor.

Sincerely,


(Leena Salim Moazzam)
Counselor (Political)

STEPS TAKEN TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR

LEGAL COVER

- * The Constitution of Pakistan (Article 11(3) & 37(e)) prohibits employment of children below 14 years in factories, mines or other hazardous occupations.
- * The Employment of Children Act 1991 exclusively deals with child labour. The Act prescribes occupations and processes wherein employment of children is prohibited.

The Act has recently been amended to enhance its scope. Previously it prohibited the employment of children in 6 occupations and 14 processes. Now it prohibits the child employment in 4 occupations and 34 processes.

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- * Pakistan has ratified the following International Covenants/standards relating to child labour:
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - The ILO Convention No.59 (Minimum Age Convention) that call for abolition of child labour;
 - The ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour (*ratified in October 2001*) that requires the ratifying countries to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.
 - The ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age. *This is the most recent ratification by the Government of Pakistan (on 6th July 2006)*

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR

National Policy and Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour

The National Policy and Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour was approved by the Cabinet on May 10, 2000.

It defines the policies; strategies; activities and responsibilities of different agencies; timeframe; delivery system; and funding for child labour elimination.

The Plan is being implemented by the provincial governments and other relevant government agencies to achieve the following objectives:

- Progressive elimination of child labour from all economic sectors.
- Immediate withdrawal of children from worst forms of child labour.
- Preventing entry of under-aged children into the labour market through universalization of primary education and family empowerment.
- Rehabilitation of working children through non-formal education, pre-vocational training and skill development.